

SKIT ACTIVITY: GROUP D

Read the following excerpt from the *Mencius*.

Mencius (370–290 B.C.E.)—one of the most famous Confucian scholars. He helped further Confucian teachings, in particular the notion that human beings are basically good.

befitting—appropriate to

venerable—worthy of respect

Treat the aged of your own family in a manner befitting their venerable age and extend this treatment to the aged of other families; treat your own young in a manner befitting their tender age and extend this to the young of other families, and you can roll the Empire on your palm.¹¹

1. Circle the statement that best matches the meaning of this excerpt. Check with the teacher once you have decided.
 - Every person has his/her place in society.
 - Duties to one's parents are of utmost importance.
 - Promote those who are most able.
 - Human beings are naturally good.
 - There are proper ways to treat the elderly and the young.
 - When others do not treat you well, think of how you could improve yourself.
2. What do you think Mencius means when he says older people in your family should be treated "in a manner befitting their venerable age"? Give examples.
3. What do you think Mencius means when he says younger people should be treated "in a manner befitting their tender age"? Give examples.
4. As a group, prepare a presentation of this excerpt. Your presentation should
 - have participation by all group members;
 - clearly portray the meaning behind this excerpt **in a modern-day context** (such as in a classroom, school, or a current event); and
 - be interesting and creative.